The Dewan then opened the Assembly with the following:—

ADDRESS.

"MEMBERS OF THE SRI MULAM POPULAR ASSEMBLY,

Under the gracious command of His Highness the Maha Raja, it is my pleasing privilege to welcome you to the nineteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

2. Copies of the Administration Report for the year 1097 M. E. have already been placed in your hands, from which you will learn in detail of the activities of the several departments of the State during that year. I here propose to explain the more salient among the measures that have either been adopted or are in process of adoption since the last session, and incidentally to state how some of the steps taken have paved the way for the introduction of other and newer measures in extension of the policy outlined in my opening Address to the members of this Assembly at its seventeenth session. The classification and arrangement of the subjects on which I propose to address you will be substantially the same as those adopted last year.

3. Land.—In my two previous Addresses I invited your attention to the neglected condition of survey and land records and the need for an organised effort to bring these items of work up to date, both in the interests of the cultivators and of the Government. The old staff of taluk surveyors was transferred as an integral part of the Survey Department. Three parties were constituted for the conduct of *puduval* survey operations, while a body of young men, mostly graduates, were given a course of training in survey and posted to most of the taluks for bringing land records up to date. Some of the surveyors were also detailed for the verification and re-fixing of theodolite stations, which was a necessary preliminary to the land records maintenance work entrusted to the Assistant Tahsildars. Last year, I expressed my disappointment at the work turned out by all these agencies. There were initial difficulties, no doubt, to contend against; but the Assistant Tahsildars evinced lack of enthusiasm for field work and the surveyors showed an inadequate outturn. The question of increasing the efficiency of these agencies engaged the attention of the Government, and as a first step they were purged of such of their members as were found most inefficient and indifferent. Owing to the absence of a clear division of responsibility between the Superintendent of Survey and his Assistant, the work of co-ordination and supervision was found to suffer in efficiency. To remove this defect, the Assistant Superintendent of Survey was designated Superintendent of Land Records and placed in exclusive charge of the land records maintenance staff, while the Superintendent of Survey was left to concentrate his attention on the *puduval* survey staff. The outcome of this measure has been an improvement in the outturn of both land records and *puduval* survey work. The outturn of the *puduval* survey parties improved during 1097 by about 50 per cent., while the disposal of encroachments detected and of *puduvals* surveyed by the land records staff brought in a revenue of Rs. 1,33,179 during the year against Rs. 99,848 in 1096.

4. The work connected with the disposal of *puduval* and *pokkuvaravu* cases pertains mainly to the Tahsildars. The outturn in 1097 under both these heads was unsatisfactory and the explanations offered are not altogether acceptable. Nor is there much reason to congratulate the Tahsildars on their work under the special head of assignment of lands to the depressed classes, for which facilities have, as you know, been created and the importance of which has been impressed upon them in more than one recent G. O. Of the 4,431 applications received from the members of these classes and pending disposal in 1097, it is reported that only 590 ended in the actual assignment of lands, while 2,253 were rejected and the balance left undisposed of. The large proportion of rejected applications and the heavy

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